(b) whether it is also a fact that MPEDA has alerted various investors and marginal farmers in Andhra Pradesh that acquaculture is not a permanent asset ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) : No Sir. A Scientifically conceived and eco-friendly aquaculture farm can continue its operation for an indefinite period.

(b) No Sir. MPEDA has been advising against the hazards of pollution and the overcrowding of farms. The concept of Scientific acquaculture is being emphasized by MPEDA.

(c) Does not arise.

Tobacco Exports to CIS

3686. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to encourage tobacco exports to C.I.S. countries in the current season;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether an official team will be visiting C.I.S. countries to establish firm arrangements this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) : Yes Sir. C.I.S. republi: being the major market for Indian tobacco the following steps are taken to promote export of tobacco and products in these countries;

1. Assisting exporters to :

(i) take up aggressive marketing in CIS markets.

(ii) Set up export promotion offices in CIS republics.

(iii) Establish warehouses in CIS republics for stock and sale of tobacco and cigarettes.

(iv) Explore possibilities to export tobacco to CIS republic against barter/counter trade.

(v) Establish Joint Ventures in CIS republics for cigarette production which would help export of Indian tobacco to these republics.

2. Joint participation with exporters by Tobacco Board in the World Tobacco Trade Fair held in Moscow.

3. Sending trade delegations to CIS Republics.

(c) and (d) : If necessary, an official. team would visit CIS countries. In 1992 and 1993 official teams visited these countries.

Exemption of compulsory pre-shiping Inspection

3687. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to phase out compulsory pre-shipment inspection by the Commerce Ministry;

(b) whether Government have also streamlined and simplified the proced ure in this regard to encourage exports;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government have ex empted any category from the compl usory pre-shipment inspection procedure and if so, what are the details thereof ?

(e) to what extent the simplification and streamlining of the procedure would help the manufacturers and exporters; and

(f) to what extent it will help them in ensuring quality of export products rather than depending upon export inspection agency as is being done at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) : A statement is attached (*See* below)

(e) and (f) : The liberalisation measures indicated in the Annexure in reply to parts (a) to (d) have been part of a continuous process over the years. These measures have helped manufacturers and exporters in avoiding delay, matching production and shipment schedules, and quoting competitive dates to their foreign buyers. Further, since the facility for self-certification and In-Process Quality Control (IPQC) can be withdrawn by the Export? Inspection Agencies, the manufacturers have, at the same time, to continue to maintain in the requisite quality standards.

Statement

The existing machinery for enforcement of compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection has been simplified and streamlined by taking the following steps:

(i) Star trading houses, trading houses and export houses have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of all products notified under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

(ii) Units approved by the EIAs under the System of In-Process Quality Control (IPQC) have been authorised to issue statutory certificates by themselves instead of Export Inspection Agencies.

(iii) Industrial units set up in EPZ/FTZ and 100% EOUs have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection.

(iv) Items notified under the Export (Quality Control and inspection) Act, 1963 have also been exempted from compulsory pre-shipment inspection provided the exporters have a firm letter from the overseas buyers stating that they do not want pre-shipment inspection from any official Indian Inspection Agencies.

(v) Manufacturers/exporters of engineering products and fish and fishery products, who have attained export orders of these products on an average level of Rs. 1.5 crores during the last three years and have not received any quality complaint from foreign buyers, and are competent to carry out pre-shipment inspection, will be recognised as inspection agencies for their own products.